

Information Memorandum

February 2008

Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs

John O. Pastore Center

Benjamin Rush Building 55

35 Howard Ave, Cranston, RI 02920

Customer Information Referral & Assistance Center: 462-4000

www.dea.state.ri.us

The Point: 462-4444

www.ThePointRI.org

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Photo Identification Cards for seniors age 60 and older and disabled adults age 18 to 59 are processed free of charge by the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles at the following branch offices:

- *Middletown:* 73 Valley Road
Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- *Pawtucket:* 100 Main Street
Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- *Wakefield:* Stedman Government Center, Tower Hill Road
Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- *Warren:* 1 Joyce Street
Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- *West Warwick:* 1237 Main Street
Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- *Westerly:* Ocean Plaza, 62 Franklin Street
Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- *Woonsocket:* Dept. of Labor and Training, 217 Pond Street
Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARDS ARE *NOT* PROCESSED AT THE DMV LOCATION IN THE WARWICK MALL.

Documents such as an original birth or baptismal certificate, a U. S. Naturalization Certificate, an active passport, or military ID from active service, a retiree or reservist identification are some of the documents that can be used to obtain a photo ID card from the RI Division of Motor Vehicles. Proof of residence is also required.

For more information, call the DMV at 462-4DMV (462-4368), or go to www.dmv.ri.gov

CABLE TELEVISION PROGRAMMING: SENIOR JOURNAL: The *Senior Journal* explores the issues of growing older through the perspectives of older adults. The *Senior Journal* is produced by volunteers, and is sponsored by DEA in cooperation with Cox Communications. *Senior Journal* programs are aired on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.; Mondays at 7:00 p.m.; and Tuesdays and 11:30 a.m. over interconnect Channel A.

From February 3-12, *Digital TV is Coming* will air. Libby Arron of Cranston talks with Roger Goldblatt from the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau of Federal Communication Commission.

From February 17-26, *Prime Time Magazine* will be broadcast. Arron interviews Kelly Smith, editor and Don Fowler, freelance writer for Rhode Island's *Prime Time* magazine.

For additional information, call 462-0509.

RIPTA BUS PASSES: RIPTA will process bus passes for senior and disabled persons at these sites during February:

- Friday, February 1: Barrington Senior Center, 281 County Road (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).
- Friday, February 8: Woonsocket Senior Center, 84 Social Street (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).
- Friday, February 15: Leon Mathieu Senior Center, 420 Main Street (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).
- Friday, February 22: Warren Senior Center, 20 Libby Lane (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).
- Friday, February 29: Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).

For more information, call RIPTA at 784-9500.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH FOR 2008: The 2008 theme for the observance of May as Older Americans Month is *Working Together for Strong, Healthy and Supportive Communities*. More details on the theme and Older Americans Month activities will be available at a later date.

UNITED WAY IS MOVING: United Way of Rhode Island has announced that it is moving from 229 Waterman Street in Providence to 50 Valley Street in Providence later this Spring. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

INCOME TAX HELP: United Way 211 at Crossroads is offering free income tax filing services to persons and families with incomes of \$40,000 or less. The service is designed to help low-eligible income taxpayers to file for the earned income and childcare tax credits. The Internal Revenue Service certifies all preparers and e-filing is available for faster refunds. Information is also available on financial workshops, as well as credit counseling and homeowner opportunities. For information on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and times, call 211 toll-free from anywhere in Rhode Island. Taxpayers need to bring their Social Security card for themselves and all dependents, if applicable, all W-2 and 1099 forms, and a copy of their 2006 federal tax form, if a return was filed.

The Internal Revenue Service also sponsors the VITA and Tax Counseling for the Elderly free tax preparation programs at Westbay Community Action. Tax returns are prepared by appointment only Mondays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call Jessie Ealy at 732-4666, X 120 or Vertal Patterson at 732-4666, X121.

NEW SPANISH-LANGUAGE WEB SITE: Accurate, up-to-date information on health issues affecting Hispanic seniors is now available online in Spanish from the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health. The user-friendly web site has information on a wide range of health topics including diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease, cancer and diabetes. Helpful tips on choosing a doctor and maintaining a healthy lifestyle are also available at www.nia.nih.gov/Espanol. The web site offers free publications in Spanish, as well as links to other health-related Spanish-language web sites such as Medicare and Medline Plus. Making health information available to minority elders is a vital part of the NIA's outreach to older adults. The older population in the United States is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of Hispanic adults in the United States is expected to increase from six percent in 2003 to 11 percent by 2030. The NIA leads the federal government effort conducting and supporting research on the biomedical, social and behavioral aspects of aging and the problems of older persons. To learn more about NIA, visit their web site at www.nih.gov.

MEDICARE MOBILE BUS TOUR: The Medicare Mobile Bus Tour visited 148 cities in the continental 48 states promoting the *Healthier U.S. Starts Here* prevention campaign. The Medicare Mobile Bus Tour generated 117 print media articles, 455 television segments and 166 radio segments for a total of almost 112,000 media impressions. The tour also produced 196 online mentions/articles with a monthly viewership estimated at 150,000,000.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE: Cardiovascular disease (CVD) encompasses diseases of the heart (cardio) and blood vessels (vascular). It is the number one killer of men and women in the United States, accounting for 36 percent of all deaths annually. The major risk factors for CVD that can be prevented or controlled include smoking, high blood pressure, physical inactivity, obesity, diabetes and high cholesterol. The more risk factors an individual has, the higher their chance for developing CVD. Some of the things seniors can do to prevent or control CVD include having your cholesterol, lipid and triglyceride levels tested and making lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, managing weight, increasing physical activity and developing proper nutrition habits.

NEW PATIENT EDUCATION BOOKLET: The National Cancer Institute has developed a new patient education booklet called *Pap Tests: Things to Know*. This eight-page easy-to-read booklet is now available in print and online editions and answers women's common questions about Pap tests while emphasizing the message that regular Pap testing can prevent cervical cancer. Copies of the brochure can be read or downloaded at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pap-tests-things-to-know.pdf>.

SECOND HAND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING RETAIL STORE: Westbay Community Action is opening a second hand children's clothing store at 210 Buttonwoods Avenue in Warwick. They are looking for donations of "gently used" children's clothing from sizes 0-16, as well as children's furniture. Donations will be sold at the store and all profits will be used to benefit their many programs and services. For information, call 732-4660.

HEATING ASSISTANCE FUNDS: Federal Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt has announced the release of \$450 million to help low-income home owners and renters meet home energy costs. The Low-Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP) funds will provide states, territories and tribal areas and the District of Columbia with heating assistance for the rest of the winter months ahead. LIHEAP helps eligible families pay for home cooling, heating and insulation in summer and winter months. Every year, more than five million low-income households across the country receive assistance under LIHEAP. Including block grant allocations, the latest money released brings the total amount of money delivered to \$2.2 billion for this fiscal year. Another \$160 million remains available for unanticipated events in the emergency contingency fund.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN SUSPENDED: Effective January 16, the marketing and enrollment activities of Health Net Life Insurance Company's Prescription Drug Plan has been suspended. Until further notice, no new enrollments of any kind can be accepted.

SNOWFLAKE WINTER BALL: Westbay Community Action has scheduled a Snowflake Winter Ball for Friday, February 29 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick (6:30 p.m.). Proceeds will benefit Westbay programs. In addition to dining and dancing, there will be a silent auction. Tickets are \$75 each. For more information, call Westbay Community Action at 732-4660.

CAPITOL REGION RSVP MOVES: Capitol Region RSVP has moved to Federal Hill House, 9 Courtland Street, Providence 02919. The telephone number is 421-4722. The FAX number is 421-4725.

JEWISH SENIORS AGENCY HAS MOVED: Jewish Seniors Agency has moved to the Colibi Building, 100 Niantic Avenue, Providence 02907. The telephone number is 351-4750.

CENTENARIANS BRUNCH: The annual Rhode Island Governor's Centenarians Brunch will be held on Wednesday, May 7 at Capitol Ridge at Providence. If you know of a person who is 100 or older, or who will reach 100 this year, please call Donna Slemon at the Department of Elderly Affairs at 462-0501. Please give the name, address, telephone number and birth date of the centenarian, so that DEA can send an invitation to the centenarian. Also, please give the name, address and telephone number of the person who will escort the centenarian to the Brunch.

DIABETES EXPO: The American Diabetes Association and the Administration on Aging are sponsoring the "Diabetes Expo" on Sunday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Boston World Trade Center. The Expo will contain a variety of interactive events, presentations, demonstrations and free health screenings. Tickets are \$5 for seniors and 10:00 for the general public. For more information, call 1-888-DIABETES, or visit www.diabetes.org/expo.

Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA), John O. Pastore Center, Benjamin Rush Building 55, 35 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 publishes the Information Memorandum in January, February, April, June, July, August, October, and November of each year. In March, May, September, and December, DEA publishes The Older Rhode Islander newspaper. Reader's comments, suggestions, or items of interest are welcome. The deadline for submission of material is the first of the month for the next monthly publication. The DEA also encourages aging network agencies to reprint any articles that appear in the Information Memorandum or The Older Rhode Islander. Permission to reprint this material is not required by DEA. For additional information on DEA publications, call Larry Grimaldi at 462-0509. To send a FAX, dial 462-0503; or e-mail larry@dea.state.ri.us.

